

## HE IS THE GREATEST.

Uncle Sam is the Champion  
Book Publisher.

IT IS A GREAT COLLECTION.

An Entertaining and Instructive Letter on  
the Public Documents Turned out  
by the Government.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—The greatest publisher in the world is Uncle Sam. No other publishing house turns out so vast a quantity, so great a variety of books and pamphlets as does he from his big publishing house in this city. He pays more money to authors, too, for what is correct, but a house full of writers for the people, what are the executive officers and their tens of thousands of assistants but



ALL SORTS AND COINTEGRATIONS OF BOOKS.  
copy producers? I don't know, and I don't believe any one knows, how many separate publications Uncle Sam gets out in a year, but it must be an enormous number, embracing everything in the book and pamphlet line you can think of, from little half page pension bills to huge tomes of thousands of pages each, full of maps and charts.

Let us try to gain an idea of the magnitude of Uncle Sam's operations in the publishing line by looking over his output for a single year. Of course we shall be able to mention only some of the more important books just to show how the pages pile up and the fat volumes accumulate by the hundreds of thousands. Abridgment of message and documents, 970 pages, 35,000 copies, cost \$10,000. Report of the commission of education, 30,000 copies, cost \$27,000. Report of chief of engineers, 3,500 copies, cost \$20,000. This looks like a very expensive book for Uncle Sam to print and give away at \$7 a copy, but it must be remembered that it consists of four volumes, or nearly 3,000 pages. It is one of the largest books which the government issues every year and one of the most important, showing the progress of the engineering work of the government in all the rivers and harbors of the country.

Thousands of citizens throughout the nation have been favored with copies of the annual report of the secretary of the treasury, a book of more than a thousand pages. Receivers often use these volumes with reckless indifference, unmindful of the fact that every book cost Uncle Sam \$2.15. Another big work which comes out every year is the "Commercial Relations of the United States," usually in two volumes of a thousand pages each. Only 5,000 copies are printed, but they cost nearly \$3 apiece. The most expensive book per copy of the regular publications is the "Biennial Register" or "Blue Book," which contains a list of all the employees of the government, their salaries, whence appointed, where employed, etc. It is in two volumes, each almost as large as Webster's unabridged, and though only 3,200 copies are printed the cost is \$25,000, or \$8 for each set of two volumes. It costs more than \$20,000 to print the type alone. The annual report of the Smithsonian Institution usually costs \$15,000 for 16,000 copies, and it is one of the few books of which Uncle Sam does not print nearly enough.

These are a few of the regular publications. After Gen. Greely returned from his ill-fated north pole expedition, he wrote a report for the government to print. He also wrote a book for a private publishing house. The latter came out about a year before the official publication, but when this did come out it was a very fine affair. It was in two volumes, and the 5,000 copies of each printed cost Uncle Sam just \$20,000. Uncle Sam has spent a small fortune on books descriptive and illustrative of Alaska. One came out a few days ago, 6,000 copies, cost \$6,000. Every time a senator or representative dies his colleagues make speeches about him, and to print and bind these speeches in beautiful little books costs Uncle Sam to an expense of about \$4,000. Railway switchmen have whole libraries of them in their shanties, and thus revel in stories of pathos and eloquence, and get a little sentiment in their lives, otherwise so commonplace.

A book much prized by farmers and stock raisers is the report of the bureau of animal industry. It usually has about 500 pages, contains \$2,000 worth of engraving, and the 40,000 copies printed cost nearly \$20,000. It must be admitted that in the way of giving information on special subjects to the people, free of cost to them, Uncle Sam is doing a great work. He is printing the rebellion records, of which



THE SWITCHMAN'S LIBRARY.

fifty volumes have already been issued, and still the work goes on at a cost of a fortune every year. He is publishing a medical and surgical history of the war, which will probably run to five or six volumes, each volume costing about \$25,000, or \$250 a copy. Greater than any of these in real value is a work now being published—an indexed catalogue of the books, periodicals, reports and manuscripts in the library of the surgeon general's office. This noble work, which is attracting attention from the medical fraternity of all

nations, will appear in about fifteen royal octavo volumes, costing the government about \$5 a copy. Ten volumes are already out.

Columns could be filled with descriptions of other great educational works which have come from Uncle Sam's prolific presses. Uncle Sam pays out a great deal of money in the course of a year for engravings with which to embellish his various publications. Nothing shows to better ad-

vantage his liberality as a publisher than the manner in which he spends money for illustrations in the books which he gives away. If the reader of this letter happens to have at hand a copy of the agricultural report for 1887 he will find it in ten colored illustrations. Doubtless he will be surprised on learning that these ten pictures cost the government \$4,808. Four hundred and eighty dollars apiece seems pretty expensive for pictures of new beets and recently discovered breeds of chickens; but it must be remembered that only a small part of this sum was expended for engraving proper, most of the expense being incurred for the 400,000 pages of each illustration, prepared for insertion in the report in the binding room.

The engravings in the agricultural report of 1888 cost \$12,000, more than one-third of this sum being paid for five pictures in the report of the microscopist. The farmer ought to appreciate what Uncle Sam is doing for him in the way of pictures, even if he doesn't. Engravings for the report of the bureau of animal industry cost \$1,500; for the consular report on cattle and dairy farming (363 illustrations), \$6,250; entomological report, \$1,500, and even the one picture of the bird in the little book on "The English Sparrow in North America" cost \$100. A striking example of the manner in which Uncle Sam goes in for pictures whenever he finds something to picture is found in the engravings for Professor Marsh's report on sauropoda in the geological survey. There were 19 illustrations and they cost \$5,047, though it is probable there is no more than one man in ten thousand throughout this broad land who knows what sauropoda is or are or have been. I confess that I don't. All told, the cost of engraving is about \$100,000 a year.

The biggest thing Uncle Sam does in the publishing line is the agricultural report. This he is never done with. He no sooner gets the report for one year half printed than the next year's edition must be started. The result is that the great publishing house is constantly overrun with agricultural reports. From one year's end to another the presses are monotonously, persistently flapping down the broad sheets which are bound up into the books the farmers like so well. Four hundred thousand copies! Think what that means. It is seven hundred and fifty millions of copies for farmers. It is a long freight train—30 cars—full of black muslin bound books. Pile all these volumes together in a solid mass and they will equal the cubic contents of a large four-story brick dwelling house. Place them side by side on bookshelves and you will need shelving eighteen and a half miles long to hold them all.

Think of the interest and pride in their work the farmers and the farmers' boys have in these United States have had incited in them by perusal of these miles and miles of agricultural treatises, year after year. When the country had laid down by the fire, after a day of toil in the cornfield or potato patch, and reads a handsomely illustrated book about farming, full of new ideas, experiments, suggestions, prepared by men whose names stand high in popular esteem, and published by his government, he gathers appreciation of the importance and dignity of his calling, gains self respect, self confidence and content. Agriculture does not seem quite so humble, quite so lowly, as it did when he was out in the field picking potatoes out of the mud with cold, sticky fingers. I know because I have been there, and hence I walk into the great government printing office and lift my hat to the huge piles of agricultural reports which I see there.

I do the same thing in the three or four rural stores, where tens and tens of these books are piled up awaiting shipment. I even applaud the congressmen who vote an appropriation of \$300,000 a year for printing these reports. Of course their idea is to have as many books as they can get hold of without cost to themselves to use in carrying favor with their agricultural constituents, but at the same time they are helping educate the masses. They are doing something good for the millions of people who plant and sow and reap.

Of course congress is Uncle Sam's most prolific author. The Congressional Record, which fills eight or ten huge volumes a year and costs \$4,000 a week, is but a small part of the printing done for the senate. To print the senate and house journals involves an expense of \$15,000 a year. The journal of the present house filled more than 4,000 pages during its first session. Publication of new laws in pamphlet form costs nearly \$20,000 a year, while printing of the statutes at large, as enacted by each congress, makes from \$7,000 to \$10,000 more. The reports of the house committees at the recent session amounted to 8,000 pages and cost \$20,000, though only one-third of the usual number of copies was printed. The reports of senate committees were nearly as great in bulk. A remarkable example of the reckless manner in which congress calls upon its publisher is found in the act passed March 3, 1887. This directed the public printer to publish the testimony taken in seventeen contested election cases in the house. In four months the big publishing house turned out 15,386 pages of such testimony in printed form at a cost to the government of about \$30,000. It is estimated that about one dozen persons besides printers and proof readers have read those books.

The sum total of Uncle Sam's publishing operations in a year? It is not easy to say with accuracy. A fair estimate, however, is that he turns out every working day the equivalent of a book of 1,500 pages. At any rate, he prints more than a million copies a week of his various publications, and spends three millions a year in doing it.

ROBERT GRAVES.

**A Prodigious Ester.**  
Among the accounts of enormous estates there is, perhaps, none more extraordinary than that related in "Fuller's Worthies" concerning Nicholas Wood, of Harrison, Kent, England. The account says: He ate at one meal a whole sheep, and at another time thirty dozen of pigeons. At the residence of Sir William Salley he ate as much as would have sufficed for thirty men. At Lord Watten's, in Kent, he devoured eighty-four rabbits at one sitting, which, at the rate of half a rabbit for each man, would have served 108 men. At breakfast he ate eighteen yards of black pudding, and during the day ate a whole hog. When accommodated with fruit he ate three pecks of damsons.

**A Contented Man.**  
A family by the name of Perkins, consisting of the father, his wife and four children, passed through Atchison bound for Brown county, Ill. The man had lost one eye and the left arm, the woman was minus the left arm, one of the children had but one leg, another was blind and one sick. He had \$5 in cash, a plug of tobacco, a clay pipe, a

yellow dog, and altogether was as happy and contented as if he owned half the state. —Atchison (Kan.) Champion.

**American Credentials.**  
Anxious Mother—My dear, does that young man who comes to see you belong to a good family?  
Daughter—Yes, ma. He comes of old colonial stock, dating way back to the Mayflower.  
Mother—I am delighted to hear that. But are you sure of it?  
Daughter—Yes, indeed. You ought to hear him cough.—Good News.

HUMORISTS IN POLITICS.

**The Election of Bad Boy Peck Governor of Wisconsin.**  
[Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, Nov. 24.—The election of Mr. George W. Peck as governor of the state of Wisconsin is rather curious and anomalous development of a career which had its beginning in pure, broad fun. Mr. Peck, possessing the humorous gift, and being convinced that it was a talent which could be turned to pecuniary advantage, began the publication of sketches in his weekly paper which first set the whole northwest to laughing uproariously, and then attracted wide attention throughout the country. His gift proved to be his fortune peculiarly, and to the profits that came from his newspaper circulation were added handsome sums realized from the pay known as "Peck's Bad Boy," and from the sale of the sketches collected in book form.

Financially independent, Mr. Peck turned his attention to politics, and being personally popular, as well as in accord with the majority in his state on a certain question relating to education, he was first elected mayor of Milwaukee and now is the chosen governor of the state. This is the only case on record where a professionally funny man has entered political life to win some of the chief honors to be found therein. But it should be remembered that Mr. Peck, while a funny man by profession, was always a politician, and in political activity, rather than in the creation of humor, his chief delight was always to be found.

The only other case where a professional humorist has been seriously thought of for political preferment was that of Mark Twain. After Mr. Clemens had obtained the foundation of his wealth he moved to Hartford to live, mainly that he might be near by the publishers of his book. For a while after he went there he seemed to take some interest in political matters. He was ready to discuss political problems seriously and did so. He wrote upon political subjects, and on one or two occasions appeared at political meetings, delivering what were meant to be serious addresses. But Mark Twain, unlike Mr. Peck, had no talent for political management, and the humor of politics diverted him, while, strange to say, fond of fun as he is, Mr. Peck is the most serious and solemn of men in his political relations.

Nevertheless, there was serious talk at one time of nominating Mark Twain for mayor of Hartford. It was abandoned because, as the humorist himself saw, the public would be likely to regard it as he himself did—as a great joke. There is no doubt at all that Mark Twain being elected mayor of Hartford he would have been an extremely able and successful administrator of the public business. There is nothing funny in Mark Twain's business methods. He is as severe and as rigid in his business dealings as he is whimsical and peculiar in his literary work. No one who has had business dealings with him ever smiles or attempts to pass the joke with him.

Mr. Locke, better known as "Petroleum V. Nasby," after he had acquired the fame of a humorist and the fortune which is apt to go with that fame, had a serious inclination to enter political life. It was his desire to represent his district in congress, and very likely had his health been spared and his life prolonged, he would have received his party's nomination. For Mr. Locke, although a humorist, was, unlike Peck, a satirist, and most of his fun was really political dissension directed toward the cover of satire and humor. He was a student of American politics, a man of deep convictions, and it was his desire to reap a more substantial if not more lasting fame than that which he possessed as the writer of "The Nasby Papers." His illness and death, however, ended the matter.

Of all the other funny writers none of them seems to have had the slightest political inclination. Artemus Ward had no conception at all of political movements. John Phoenix found never ending sources of humor in the political life of California, and "Dosticks," the author of "Spartan Grass Papers," and "Orpheus C. Kerr" had no political inclination whatever.

On the other hand, however, there has been a number of men in public life, some of them distinguished, who would probably have won great fame had they sought the literature of humor, instead of the activities of politics. Perhaps the most accomplished humorist who has succeeded in politics was Sunset Cox; but he always asserted that his reputation for humor had interfered greatly with his political career. Cox, however, never wrote for money until after he had won his greatest political victories, and his humor, too, was too delicate and subtle ever to have become so widely popular as to bring him great pecuniary returns.

**Notes About Rev. E. E. Hale.**  
BOSTON, Nov. 24.—When Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale was "supplying" he was quite unlike the conventional "supply," for instead of going to a place merely for Sunday he would stay all the week, visiting the schools and mills, and attending social events, thus getting close to the lives of the people. In this way he visited almost every part of New England, much of western New York and the cities of Albany, Philadelphia, Washington and Baltimore.

While he was pastor at Worcester, according to the time honored custom there, he was asked to act on the school committee, but refused, stating his wish to become overseer of the poor. He was elected to the position, and in the winter of 1831-32 wrote and published letters on Irish immigration, which attracted much attention, and were made the foundation of the present system of state almshouses. He was interested also in the Kansas emigration movement, and traveled through New England for the purpose of spreading the enthusiasm. He and Mr. Eli Thayer, of Worcester, succeeded so well that the tide of emigration flowed toward Kansas until, in 1861, it became a state.

There is a rumor, not very well authenticated, that ladies' gloves will have wide stitching. It makes the hands look wider and is not likely to obtain.

Embroidered suspenders.  
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VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA ("concocted always used") is the original, pure, soluble Cocoa, invented, made and patented in Holland, and is today better and more soluble than any of the numerous imitations. In fact, it is generally admitted all over Europe (and a comparative test will easily prove) that no other Cocoa equals this Inventor's in solubility, agreeable taste and nutritive qualities. "Largest sale in the world." Ask for VAN HOUTEN'S AND TAKE NO OTHER.



THE MCKINLEY BILL.

That famous McKinley tariff bill, which recently became law has been framed by a distinguished American and patented in Holland, and is today better and more soluble than any of the numerous imitations. While it deals severely with the foreign manufactured article, the tariff acts leniently with all materials imported for the benefit of our manufacturing industries and American labor. For an illustration, allow us to touch the subject of Clothing.

GOLDSMITH &amp; CO.,

Who directly import every yard of Cloth and Suitings used in the manufacture of our

CELEBRATED

High Art Clothing.

Also being custom duty payers, are undoubted authorities upon the pending question, "HIGH TARIFF BUGABOO," which scares to impress upon many fashionably dressed gentlemen that the advanced tariff will greatly increase the price on the garment we manufacture for his wear. This argument we are fully prepared and able to discuss. Using past experience to act as criterion, we issue the following common sense argument for your consideration:

FIRST—Admitting that the Suit and Overcoat manufactured in our Baltimore tailor shops are far superior than the ones made in foreign countries, but we are compelled to acknowledge that in order to maintain our reputation for the

FINEST CLOTHING.

Who render the best of satisfaction, we are obliged to import our Cloths and Suitings, especially the famous English Worsted and Meltons, Scotch Cheviots and Tweeds, French Cassimeres, etc., which beyond a shadow of a doubt are not only superior to our home manufacture, but positively the finest on the face of the globe.

SECOND—Admitting the increased duties on the ready-made garments admitted to our ports are large and severe, yet the material necessary to make garment scarcely advanced the paltry sum of 50c. Hence the advance we deem perfectly ridiculous, and the most skeptical will readily coincide with us.

THIRD—Although three-fourths of our total Clothing stock we handle are of imported materials, duty paid on the old tariff schedule (for all these goods were made up long before October 6, at 12 p. m., when the McKinley law took effect), yet we frankly assure our friends and patrons that we will at all times continue to serve you with the finest the market affords. Tariff or no tariff, we will at all times continue to serve you with the finest the market affords. Tariff or no tariff, we will at all times continue to serve you with the finest the market affords. Tariff or no tariff, we will at all times continue to serve you with the finest the market affords.

one you pay \$5.00 more for elsewhere, and as to our

"High Art Clothing,"

We are at all times ready and able to distance your Merchant Tailor fancy prices, and yet guaranteeing you equally as good a fitting and made garment, if not better.

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Hats and Caps in the newest styles and shapes, this fall importations, embracing the most varied and complete stock we have ever exhibited. Our friends from the country can rely on the proverbial low prices, for the farmer and family trade have for twenty-five years been experienced and successful in supplying our patrons from the largest to the minutest necessity.

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Than we have room for, therefore, we are FORCED TO

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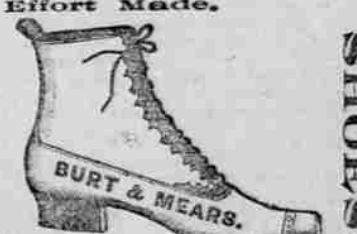
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